

REMARKABLE STATE PAPER

Secy. Knox Sends One to Nicaraguan Charge d'Affaires Denouncing Zelaya

PASSPORTS ARE SENT TO HIM

Diplomatic Relations With the Central American Republic Severed.

Whatever Faction in Control Will be Held Responsible for Protection of Americans.

Washington, Dec. 1.—Secy. of State Knox late today returned the passports of Felipe Rodriguez, charge d'affaires of the Nicaraguan legation, with a letter scathingly denouncing the Zelaya administration of the government of Nicaragua. The letter is definitely declared to represent the views of President Taft and is about as plain-spoken as anything emanating from the state department in many years.

The extraordinary feature of the letter is that it seems to evidence an intention on the part of the United States to hold President Zelaya personally responsible for the alleged torture and execution of the Americans, Cannon and Groce, and exhibits the unique situation of one government holding the chief executive of another practically as a common malefactor.

Zelaya is branded as a violator of solemn international conventions, a disturber of the national and international peace, a tyrant whose administration has been a blot upon the name of good government.

Secy. Knox virtually announces the recognition of the Nicaraguan revolutionists, declares it to be the conviction of the United States that the revolution represents the sentiment of a majority of the Nicaraguan people, and that there is evidently no responsible government with which the United States can deal. He therefore announces that all parties will be held accountable for their actions as affecting the interests of Americans and the peace of Central America.

He further informs Senor Rodriguez that, while he has lost his diplomatic quality, he may still serve as an "un-

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official" channel of communication with the faction which he is regarded as representing.

This brings the crisis as near to the status of war as it could be brought by executive action without a definite declaration by Congress, which will convene next Monday. Mr. Knox's letter, in all but so many words makes it plain that the action represents the wish and attitude of all the Central American states with the single exception of Honduras, which is regarded here as entirely dominated by Zelaya. Mexico has its sympathy with the United States in this matter.

Just what status consular representatives of the United States in Nicaragua now enjoy is not definitely explained today. It is expected, however, that Vice Consul Caldera, who has been occupying the legation in Managua, and other consuls in that country, will be given their passports tomorrow. This is the usual method of procedure.

KNOX TO RODRIGUEZ.

Following is the text of Secy. Knox's letter to Senor Rodriguez:

Department of State, Washington, Dec. 1, 1909.

"Sir: Since the Washington convention of 1907, it is notorious that President Zelaya has almost continuously kept Central America in tension or turmoil, that he has repeatedly and flagrantly violated the provisions of the convention and by a baneful influence on Honduras, whose neutrality the conventions were to assure, has sought to discredit these sacred international obligations to the great detriment of Costa Rica, Salvador and Guatemala, whose governments meanwhile appear to have been able patiently to strive for the loyal support of the engagements so solemnly undertaken at Washington, under the auspices of the United States and of Mexico.

In these circumstances the president no longer feels for the government of President Zelaya that respect, that confidence which would make it appropriate hereafter to maintain with it regular diplomatic relations, implying the will and ability to respect and assure what is due from one state to another.

The government of Nicaragua, which you have hitherto represented is hereby notified that also the leaders of the revolution, that the government of the United States will hold strictly accountable for the protection of American life and property the factious de facto in control of the western portions of the republic of Nicaragua.

"As for the reputation found due after careful consideration, for the killing of Messrs. Groce and Cannon, the government of the United States would be loth to impose upon the innocent people of Nicaragua a too heavy burden of expiating the acts of a regime forced upon them, or to exact from a succeeding government, if it have quite different policies, the imposition of such a burden. Into the question of ultimate reparation there must enter the question of the existence at Managua of a government capable of responding to demands. There must enter also the question how far it is possible to reach those actually responsible and those who perpetrated the crimes reported to have preceded the execution, if these be verified; and the question whether the government be one entirely dissociated from the present intolerable conditions, and worthy to be trusted to make impossible a recurrence of such acts, in which the president, as a friend of your country, as he is also of other republics of Central America, might be disposed to have indemnity confined to what was reasonably due the relatives of the deceased and punitive only in so far as the punishment might fall where really due.

DEMANDS WITHHELD.

"In pursuance of this policy, the government of the United States will temporarily withhold its demand for reparation. In the meanwhile taking such steps as it deems wise and proper to protect American interests, in consideration of the interests of the majority of the Central American republics, and in the hope of opinion, more effective the friendly offices exerted under the Washington conventions, the government of the United States reserves for further consideration at proper time the question of stipulating also that the constitutional government of Nicaragua obligate itself by convention, for the benefit of all the governments concerned, as a guarantee of its future loyalty and support of the Washington conventions and their peaceful and progressive aims.

PASSPORTS ENCLOSED.

"It is equally a matter of common knowledge that under the regime of President Zelaya republican institutions have ceased in Nicaragua to exist except in name; that public opinion and that the press have been throttled, and that there has been the reward of any tendency to real patriotism. My consideration for you personally impels me to abstain from unnecessary discussion of the painful details of a regime which unfortunately has been a blot upon the history of Nicaragua and a discouragement to a group of republics whose aspirations need only the opportunity of free and honest government.

"In view of interests of the United States and of its relation to the Washington conventions, appeal against this situation has long since been made to this government by a majority of the Central American republics. There is now added the appeal through the revolution, of a great body of the Nicaraguan people.

"Two Americans, who this government was not convinced, were officers connected with the revolutionary forces and therefore entitled to be dealt with according to the enlightened practice of civilized nations, have been killed by direct order of President Zelaya. Their execution is said to have been preceded by barbarous cruelties.

"The consulate at Managua is now officially reported to have been menaced. There is thus a sinister culmination of an administration also characterized by a cruelty to its own citizens which has, until the recent outrage, found vent, in the case of this country, in a succession of petty annoyances and indignities which many months ago made it impossible to ask an American minister longer to reside at Managua. From every point of view it has evidently become difficult for the United States further to delay more active response to the appeals so long made to its duty to its citizens, to its dignity, to Central America and to civilization.

REVOLUTION POPULAR.

"The government of the United States is convinced that the revolution represents the ideals and the will of a majority of the Nicaraguan people more faithfully than does the government of President Zelaya, and that its possible control is well-nigh as extensive as that hitherto so sternly attempted by the government at Managua.

"There is now added the fact, as officially reported from more than one quarter, that there are already indications of a rising in the western provinces in favor of a presidential candidate intimately associated with the old regime. In this it is easy to see new elements tending toward a condition of anarchy which leaves, at a given time, no responsible source to which the government of the United States could look for reparation for the killing of Messrs. Cannon and Groce, or indeed, for the protection which must be assured American citizens and American interests in Nicaragua.

"From the foregoing it will be apparent to you that your office of charge d'affaires is at an end. I have the honor to inclose your passport, for use in case you desire to leave this country. I will add at the same time that, although your diplomatic quality is terminated, I shall be happy to receive the representatives of the revolution,

each as the unofficial channel of communication between the government of the United States and the de facto authorities to whom I look for the protection of American interests pending the establishment in Nicaragua of a government with which the United States can maintain diplomatic relations.

"Accept, sir, the renewed assurances of my high consideration.

"P. C. KNOX.

"To Felipe Rodriguez, Esquire."

WHAT KNOX MEANS.

Just what Secy. Knox meant in his letter to Senor Rodriguez by the reference to the Washington agreement of two years ago is disclosed by reference to that convention.

Through the efforts of Mr. Root, then secretary of state, representatives of the Central American republics, then on the point of a general warfare, largely due, it was alleged, to the ambition of President Zelaya to become dictator of Central America, were brought to Washington and induced to enter into a compact to refrain from exploitation of the territories of one another and to observe rules of civilized intercourse. Specifically, they pledged to submit to arbitration instead of putting to the test of war any differences that might arise between them. The integrity of Honduras was guaranteed.

Now Secy. Knox practically charges that all these stipulations were violated by President Zelaya. He has dominated Honduras, he is alleged to be only his mouthpiece, and Zelaya has not hesitated to violate the laws of neutrality by sending troops, without warrant or permission, into Salvador and Costa Rica. That he would have done the same in the case of Guatemala had the revolution extended to the northern frontier of Nicaragua there is no doubt.

WHAT WAS UNDERSTOOD.

It was well understood, though never reduced to the form of a treaty, that not only the United States, but Mexico, would undertake to see that provisions of the treaty were effective, though purely moral suasion was supposed to be the main reliance to accomplish this.

This has utterly failed, after a trial of nearly two years. Reports to the department of state from its diplomatic and consular agents have shown that in that period President Zelaya has been stirring up discontent in other Central American republics, even substantial aid to the would-be revolutionists and doing everything possible to bring about a state of affairs that would warrant his invading territory of his neighbors.

But internal conditions in Nicaragua revealed by these reports have never been made public because the moral turpitude involved is almost beyond belief. While these reports are still withheld from publication, officials of the department of state have disclosed enough to show that a condition of absolute despotism has existed in Nicaragua, with accompaniments such as rapine, murder, extortion and barbarous treatment of prisoners, unknown since medieval times.

As Secy. Knox said in his letter, other Central American republics have protested in vain against conditions in Nicaragua, but the state department has felt loth to violate its old traditions of non-interference in the internal affairs of other nations and probably would have refrained even now had not Zelaya gone to the length of torturing and killing two Americans engaged in honorable warfare.

In answer to the department's demands for an explanation, Zelaya's agents simply stated that the executions were in accordance with the law of Nicaragua, but the state department finds that that law is Zelaya's and that the action was in violation of all rules of civilized warfare.

NO GOVERNMENT IN NICARAGUA.

Reasoning that there is no actual government in Nicaragua, the department necessarily arrived at the conclusion that Zelaya is only an international brigand and must be so treated. He must be held responsible for the killing of these two Americans as if he were a private individual and it is probable that he will be captured in Nicaragua or reclaimed from any country to which he attempts to escape if an extradition treaty can be invoked, and tried as a common malefactor. It is believed that President Diaz of Mexico was the deciding force in this matter, and that it was because of energetic declarations by him of the guilt of Zelaya and the necessity for intervention, that in Washington within the last 24 hours, that the state department reached its decision.

In the ordinary course this government would content itself with the payment of a heavy monetary indemnity to the families of the victims of Zelaya's edict. But, as Secy. Knox clearly indicates in his letter, it is not the purpose of the American government thus to tax the great majority of the Nicaraguan people who did not sympathize with Zelaya's action.

The status may be summed up as follows:

Diplomatic relations between the United States and Nicaragua have been terminated. Dr. Hazera, minister designate from Nicaragua, will not be received at the state department. Senor Rodriguez, the charge of the Nicaraguan legation, has been given his passports and so has no official standing here.

On the receipt of the letter of Mr. Knox through a state department messenger, Senor Rodriguez notified his government by cable. He is awaiting a reply and will remain here a few days. When seen, Senor Rodriguez was excited, but his discussion of the situation was brief.

"We are stricken to the heart, we are paralyzed," was his expression.

There was, however, little evidence at the Nicaraguan legation of so profound a feeling. On the contrary, it was the scene of much gaiety.

MARINES READY TO SAIL.

Philadelphia, Dec. 1.—Detachments of marines aggregating 400 men, from Brooklyn, Washington and Annapolis, arrived at the Philadelphia navy-yard today to augment the complement of 400 from the local yard, who already were preparing to sail on the auxiliary cruiser Prairie.

Two 3-inch field pieces, 800,000 rounds of ammunition, tents to accommodate 700 men and 50 camp stoves were added to the cargo of the cruiser today.

There has been a revival of the rumors that the real destination of the Prairie is Nicaragua, despite the reiterated statement from Washington that she will go to Panama.

PRINCETON NEARLY WRECKED.

Astoria, Or., Dec. 1.—Private advices received here last Wednesday from South Bend, Wash., state that the United States gunboat Princeton, bound from the Bremerton navy-yard to Nicaragua, lost its bearings off the entrance to Willapa harbor, Monday, and went on the North Spit. The Princeton sent up signals of distress and the North Cove life saving crew went to its assistance and stood by the vessel all Monday night. Tuesday the tug Daring towed the Princeton off and brought it inside the harbor. The Princeton sustained only minor injuries and will be ready to continue on its way in a few days.

MORE DANVILLE PROOF.

Jacob Schraill, 422 South St., Danville, Ill., writes: "Four over eighteen months I was a sufferer from kidney and bladder trouble. During the whole time was treated by several doctors and tried several different kinds of pills. Seven weeks ago I commenced taking Foley's Kidney Pills, and I am feeling better every day and will be glad to tell anyone interested. Just what Foley's Kidney Pills did for me." Schraill-Johnson Drug Co., Salt Lake City.

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